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Tests continuing on Foster soil, water

² The state Department of Environmental Resources Wednesday will research all data it has compiled regarding a local recycling plant before deciding how the firm must dispose of soil possibly contaminated by lead.

Mark Carmon, community relations coordinator for the DER in Wilkes-Barre, said his department will condense all available information about the C&D Recycling Plant in Foster Township before considering a waste management plan designed by the firm.

Carmon also said his department will arrange to take intensive samples of the water and soil at the property after preliminary tests last year showed heavy lead contamination in some of the soil near the site.

"After we review everything we have on the company, we will tell them what we would like them to do with the contaminated soil," Carmon said.

The DER representative feels that C&D officials will comply with the state regulations, but the state department will strongly enforce the measures if necessary.

"Then they will submit to the department a waste man-

agement plan," Carmon explained. "We will either approve it, disapprove it or amend it so that we will eliminate any potential for contamination of ground water in the area."

Likewise, the federal Environmental Protection Agency is conducting a site inspection and studying the preliminary soil and water samples taken at the site between October and December.

Nanci Sinclair, public relations representative for the EPA, said her office is waiting for conclusive results of the tests.

"On-site soil and waste showed high lead content," Ms. Sinclair said. "Although we don't have any specific levels yet, it looks possibly like a high content at the site."

But Ms. Sinclair was uncertain when the final statistics would be available because the samples may be at several laboratories across the country for analysis.

"Currently, there are 7,000 preliminary sites under investigation," Ms. Sinclair said. "We're just waiting until they get to our samples and compile the results."

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